

D/NESA 82-153

20 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM: Helene L. Boatner
Director, Near East/South Asia Analysis, DDI

SUBJECT: NSC Meeting of 21 January--Libya []

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Enclosed is the paper that the Secretary of State will use to provide a status report on US actions with regard to Libya. It generally conforms to our views as to the state of play since the US warning to Qadhafi. Several points in the paper should be clarified, however, particularly where CIA views have been singled out in the report. The following comments are keyed to the items highlighted in that paper. []

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Libya-US

Page 1/paragraph 1

The report notes that CIA believes the US demarche and other actions have had an intimidating effect on Qadhafi and that he has suspended his efforts against the President and other US officials. In fact, these points were debated at some length in a recent meeting of Intelligence Community representatives working on a Memorandum to Holders of the Terrorism estimate. During that coordination meeting, most of the participants--including the State representative--agreed that Qadhafi probably has at least temporarily backed away from threats against high US officials. DIA and Treasury have reserved judgment on these portions of the Memorandum until specialists in their agencies can be consulted. (Attached is a draft copy of the Memorandum to Holders with relevant passages highlighted.)

It is also worth noting that during the meeting of Intelligence representatives considerable skepticism and confusion was expressed as to the veracity of initial reports concerning Libya assassination intentions against the President and other ranking officials. Some of the skepticism is reflected in the text of the draft. []

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Page 2/Item "a"/first paragraph

The final sentence is somewhat misleading. The relevant point here is that Qadhafi's envoy was very careful not to admit that Libya had undertaken any nefarious action against the US. Moreover, Libya has never denied the existence of training facilities and programs, which were set up in the early 1970s in conjunction with Fatah. Since then the Libyans have referred to trainees as "national liberation" fighters, etc., etc. The sterile debate between Westerners and Arabs over the meaning of these transparent titles has lead to over analysis and interpretation of utterances, such as those by Qadhafi's envoy. []

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US-Soviet (p. 2)

We doubt that US policy with regard to Poland has had any impact one way or the other on Soviet behavior in regard to the US and Libya. []

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There have been a couple of items of interest in Libyan-Soviet relations since 10 December. []

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-- An Izvestia article of 28 December claimed that "the Soviet Union's firm stand" has had "a sobering effect on the US"--the first time the Soviets have associated themselves with Libya in that fashion. []

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-- A 7 January meeting of Soviet Chief of Staff Ogarkov and the head of the Libyan armed forces indicates they continue to discuss bilateral cooperation. []

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Libya-France (p. 3)

The statement that the French "believe that increased ties with Qadhafi will prevent closer Libyan ties to the Soviets" goes too far. The French think that a dialogue with Qadhafi might help to moderate his policies and loosen his ties to Moscow. []

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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-- Paris wants to protect French commercial interests in Libya, although the ban on new arms sales to Libya is unlikely to be relaxed any time soon. [REDACTED]

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-- [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
Helene L. Boatner

Attachments:

[REDACTED]
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